

Congressional.

Tuesday, Feb. 22d.

SENATE.—An attempt was made to get up the Cuba proposition. Mr. Slidell said if that proposition was postponed now he should consider it an evasion of a direct vote on the question. He regretted that its friends were missing while the opposition seemed disciplined and were better sitters. He trusted the bill would be disposed of this session.

A vote was then taken on the question of postponing the Cuba Bill, and decided affirmatively—yeas 33, nays 32.

Mr. Hunter moved to take up the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation Bill, which was carried. The appropriation bill was read.

A number of amendments were offered, and debated, among them was an amendment making an appropriation of \$20,000 to take a census of the people of Kansas with a view to her admission into the Union as a State; also one appropriating \$4,000 for the pay of the Oregon Senators.

Without action the Senate adjourned. **HOUSE.**—The House went into committee on the Post office Appropriation Bill.

Without concluding action on the bill, the Committee rose.

Mr. Hughes asked leave to introduce a bill to revise the tariff act of 1845.

Mr. Phelps, of Mo., had previously moved for a recess till 7 o'clock, for general debate, over which a contest arose, which was terminated by adjournment.

Wednesday, Feb. 23d.

SENATE.—Mr. Slidell gave notice that on Friday noon he would call up the bill for the acquisition of Cuba, for a final vote.

The Legislative, Executive and Judicial appropriation bill came up as the special order.

The question occurred on Mr. Hale's amendment repealing the restricting clause in the Kansas act.

Mr. Stuart said he should vote against taking the census of Kansas.

Mr. Seward said Congress had decided that Kansas might come in under the Lecompton Constitution without reference to population, but not otherwise, unless she had 92,400 inhabitants. Here was a discrimination against freedom in favor of slavery. Oregon, because she was a democratic State, was admitted without reference to population, and Kansas, because of different politics, was excluded. He was glad of this occasion to renew his vote. He was also glad that so many gentlemen on the other side would give Kansas a fair hearing. It indicates that the time is coming when any State applying for admission will be heard on its merits apart from all other considerations. That if Texas should divide, or if free States be framed in Mexico, they will come in as free States.

The House went into committee on the Post office appropriation bill.

Thursday, Feb. 24th. **SENATE.**—The Senate was engaged until midnight in an animated debate upon the political issues growing out of the unextinguished Kansas question. The point under consideration was an amendment to the general appropriation bill offered by Mr. Hale, to repeal the restrictive clause of the Kansas admission act. All the Democratic Senators whose political tenets are regarded as lacking in orthodoxy, availed themselves of the opportunity to define their position.

The amendment was rejected by a vote of 19 to 27, and the bill finally passed.

HOUSE.—The Post office appropriation Bill was taken up, and discussed at some length, when the whole subject was postponed till Monday.

Friday, Feb. 25th.

SENATE.—Mr. Doolittle's motion to take up the Homestead bill, was voted on and lost, by yeas 19, nays 28.

Mr. Brown moved today Mr. Wilson's bill on the table. Agreed to by yeas 10 to 19.

Mr. Brown then proceeded to speak on the Cuba bill. He would now move to lay the bill on the table, as a test vote, but would vote against his own motion. The test vote was then taken, and the motion was lost, by yeas 18, nays 30.

Saturday, Feb. 26th.

SENATE.—Mr. Hunter, of Va., called up the appropriation bill.

Mr. Slidell asked leave to make an explanation, and said it is proper to state to the Senate that I shall make no further attempt to bring up, for consideration, the bill to facilitate the acquisition of Cuba, by negotiation.

The Army Appropriation bill was then taken up in the Committee of the Whole, the items of which make a total of fifteen millions.

After several hours' debate, the main appropriations were agreed to.

Mr. Davis moved and carried, by a vote of 28 against 12, and additional clause, appropriating about a million of dollars for fortifications. This, with a few minor amendments, sends the bill back to the House. The bill was finally passed—yeas 24, nays 15.

HOUSE.—Mr. Faulkner, reported a bill to protect the timber growing on lands set apart by the United States, for military and other purposes. Those who unlawfully cut or otherwise destroy standing timber, are thereby subjected to a fine of five hundred dollars and a year's imprisonment. The bill was passed.

The Post office appropriation bill was then passed in the same shape as heretofore rejected, by a majority.

The House then went into committee on the Naval appropriation Bill.

Monday, Feb. 28th.

Mr. Pugh, of O., moved to take up the homestead bill, but the Senate refused, 26 against 29.

The Michigan Senators voted in the affirmative.

Mr. Houston made his parting speech, reviewing and vindicating his Congressional course.

THE CASS COUNTY REPUBLICAN.

W. H. CAMPBELL, Editor & Proprietor.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE COUNTY.

DOWAGIAC.

Thursday Morning, March 3, 1859.

REPUBLICAN NOMINATION.

For Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

GEORGE MARTIN,

OF KENT.

Charter Election.

The election for corporation officers for this village was held on Tuesday last. Every thing passed off quietly.

The election resulted in the choice of the Union Ticket, the candidates composing which were nominated without regard to their political views, and a regularly called caucus of the people irrespective of party, and supported generally by both political parties as neither of the political organizations made direct party nominations; but of course there were plenty of "splits" in the field. This must be expected, as no caucus could make nominations, taking the candidates from both parties, and give general satisfaction, even though it was understood that politics was to be left entirely out of the question. Consequently there will always be more or less splitting where party considerations are entirely ignored.

The gentlemen elected are all good men, and so far as we know, unexceptionable to the masses. They will, we doubt not, administer the village government with credit to themselves and benefit to the place. Below we give a statement of votes cast for each candidate, and in this connection is but an act of justice to Mr. Sullivan and others to state that their names were used without their knowledge or consent. In fact, Mr. S. knew nothing about it until he saw his name on the ticket on the morning of election:

FOR PRESIDENT.

Whole number of votes cast, 255
Joe H. Smith..... 160
James Sullivan..... 83
Scattering..... 6

FOR TRUSTEES.

Azro Jones..... 239
Daniel Larzelere..... 145
Daniel Lyle..... 201
Ira Brownell..... 253
Silas Ireland..... 251
Daniel M. Hazlett..... 189
Cyms Tutill..... 78
Able Townsend..... 62
Daniel Bates..... 60
Scattering..... 12

FOR MARSHAL.

James A. Lee..... 203
John Letts..... 47
Scattering..... 2

TREASURER.

Francis J. Mosher..... 241

FOR CLERK.

Strawther Bowling..... 199
George W. Andrews..... 50
Scattering..... 2

FOR ASSESSORS.

Gideon Gibbs..... 189
Rein C. Denison..... 227
Gilean C. Jones..... 77
Scattering..... 3

FOR STREET COMMISSIONERS.

Daniel Bates..... 186
Henry Michael..... 199
Daniel McOmber..... 240
E. M. Taylor..... 50
Aaron Harwood..... 68
Scattering..... 9

FOR FIRE WARDENS.

William K. Palmer..... 189
I. S. Beers..... 205
U. C. Squires..... 170
N. B. Hollister..... 81
A. A. Huntington..... 63
Scattering..... 32

FOR POUND MASTER.

Wm. B. Prater..... 247
Scattering..... 3

The Vote on the Oregon Bill.

The vote on the Oregon bill in the House shows the complete stultification and dishonesty of the Democratic party. Kansas has been professionally rejected because she has less population than is apportioned to a Federal Representative, but here we see the whole Democratic delegation in Congress voting to admit Oregon with still less population than Kansas has. The reason is palpable. Oregon sends to Congress a Pro-slavery Democratic delegation and Kansas would have sent an anti-slavery Republican one. But as though to make the discrimination still more odious, the Democracy specially refused to repeal that portion of the English bill, which, while that measure had proposed one population for a free State and a less for a slave State now brands Kansas with statutory punishment for refusing to come into this Union under the latter arrangement. Of themselves the Democrats could not have brought Oregon into the Union at this time, but they secured the cooperation of a number of frail Republicans, and thus succeeded. To Oregon as such there was no objection, and every Republican would welcome her as a free State, but no true Republican could consistently vote to admit a Democratic State under the same rule in pursuance of which, coupled with the most odious incidents, a Republican State had been refused. We are glad that every Michigan member is right on the record!

The Judicial Ticket.

The Lansing Republican speaking of the re-nomination of Hon. George Martin, for re-election for Chief Justice, holds the following pointed remarks, which we recommend to the consideration of every Republican in Cass County:—"Republicans! it is you who have taken the responsibility of placing this good man in the canvas, and it is you who must elect him. Your opponents, the pro-slavery Democrats, on the next day after you had named your candidate, assembled in the same place, and presented one of their number—Alpheus Felch—and in the manner of doing it, and by their resolutions and speeches, approving of the policy of the propagation of human slavery, and of the infamous acts and policy of James Buchanan, they made known to the world, that they presented their candidate, not as an upright and eminent jurist, but as a pro-slavery partisan, who like them, is willing to be availed of every influence, however debasing, so that such influence betoken success. It is they, and not we, who soil the sacred shrine of justice, by dragging it into the soiled arena of political strife.

The obligation being upon us, let us see to it that no rainy day—no local dissension, no personal variance, no dissatisfaction with the township or other ticket, prevent us from doing our duty to ourselves and our candidate. Our enemies are on the alert, and promise to themselves great results through the falling off of the last Republican majority—see to it, that they are again disappointed; to a greater degree, but in the other direction. Every vote, in majority, that George Martin receives over Alpheus Felch, less than twelve thousand, will be a living proof that the Republican party of Michigan, have not shaken off the indolence of 1853.

Special Message to Congress.

We publish in this issue the special message of President Buchanan to Congress, urging upon that body the necessity of empowering, in certain cases, the President to employ the naval and military force of the country to "protect the rights and defend the lives and liberties of our citizens in foreign countries." The message is a repetition of the views twice before presented to Congress from the same source, urging that body to transfer into the executive hands the sole and arbitrary power to make war, upon whatever pretext he might consider admirable. The President supports his call with several instances indicating the necessity of this transfer of power to his hands, the chief of which are the ancient riots at Panama, and the present disturbed state of Mexico. We presume a case more consonant with Mr. Buchanan's intentions, and hence more directly in point would have been the affair of the Black Warrior at Havana, as this would hint directly at the pet scheme of the President for the acquisition of Cuba, "peaceably if we could, forcibly if we must."

The constitution has wisely placed the war-making power in the hands of the people, and the country is not yet prepared to see it handed over to a single individual, thus virtually overturning our present Republican system, and clothing the executive with despotic power.

FOREIGN NEWS.—By the arrival at New York of the screw steamship City of Baltimore, we have European dates to Feb. 16th.

The news is not particularly important. War rumors continue, but are getting less plentiful.

It was reported that in the event of war, Napoleon was preparing to take the field in person.

An official article in a Vienna paper says that Austria is quite willing to take as a basis for a diplomatic discussion of the Italian question, whatever may be agreed on by the western powers.

The House of Lords debated the right of search question. Lord Malmesbury said that a code of instructions for the suppression of the slave trade, agreed to by England and France, had been submitted to the United States.

D'Israeli promised a reform bill for Feb. 28. He also announced that the government would not give unconditional guaranty to the Atlantic or any other submarine telegraph.

Lord Stanley's Indian finance statement shows the cost of losses by the mutiny £21,000,000 sterling. Another loan of £7,000,000 is required for India. The naval estimates are only increased about a million sterling.

The markets remain firm, but dull.

The Steamboat Princess from Vicksburg for New Orleans, exploded and burned, on Sunday morning last, near Baton Rouge, and some 200 persons are lost and missing. She was behind time and had too much steam on. The boat and cargo are a total loss.

We are under obligations to Hon. Henry Waldron, for the 2d and 3d volumes of the Message and Documents of 1858-9.

Who Killed the Homestead Bill.

The Homestead Bill, giving every man a farm of 160 acres of land, was defeated by the casting vote of Vice President Breckenridge, one of the Locooco aspirants for President. The vote upon postponing it stood as follows:

YEAS.—Messrs. Allen, Bates, Bayard, Benjamin, Bigler, Brown, Clay, Clingman, Davis, Fitch, Fitzpatrick, Green, Gwin, Hammond, Hunter, Iversen, Johnson, (Ark.) Kennedy, Lane, Mallory, Mason, Pierce, Reid, Sebastian, Slidell, Toombs, Ward and Yulee.—28.

NAYS.—Messrs. Bell, Bright, Broderrick, Chandler, Clark, Collamer, Dixon, Doolittle, Douglas, Durkee, Fessenden, Foote, Foster, Hale, Hamlin, Harlan, Houston, Johnson, (Tenn.) King, Pugh, Rice, Seward, Simmons, Smith, Stuart, Trumbull, Wade and Wilson.—28.

ABSENT.—Messrs. Cameron, Chesnut, Crittenden, Jones, Polk, Sumner, Thompson, (Ky.) Thompson, (N. J.) and Wright.

Mr. Breckenridge's vote decided the question in favor of the postponement. Every Senator who voted with him was a Locooco. This vote, says the *Detroit Advertiser*, will all agree with the *Albany Journal* in saying, more than any other which has been taken in Congress for many years, exposes the hypocrisy and pretentious meanness of the Democratic leaders. Here is a measure confessedly Democratic, designed to furnish the laboring population of all sections of the Union with free homes, as well as those who seek shelter among us from tyranny abroad; and yet the Democratic leaders of the Senate are seen to go almost in a solid mass against the bill when their principles are put to the test. The free laborers of the North, and especially our adopted citizens, should reflect upon this.

AN INQUISITIVE SCHEME.—The new apportionment proposed by the Democrats in the Illinois Legislature is made expressly to perpetuate the ascendancy of that party in their State. It gives thirty-eight members to the House of Representatives from a territory which polled 113,000 votes at the late election, and thirty-seven members only to the remainder of the State, which cast 140,000 votes. La Salle county, according to this apportionment, which polled 7,750 votes at the late election, is only entitled to one representative, while Richland and Jasper, which polled only 2,323 votes, are allowed one representative. At the same time Madison county, which polled but 4,250 votes, is allowed two representatives. It is altogether more iniquitous than the old apportionment.

Tragedy in Washington.—A Federal Officer Shot by Daniel E. Sickles. Alleged Cause of the Murder.—Great Excitement!

Washington, Feb. 20.

The community was thrown into an intense excitement to-day by the killing of Phillip Barton Key, U. S. District Attorney for the District of Columbia, at the hands of Daniel E. Sickles. According to the report, Mr. Sickles being convinced of the truth of certain scandalous rumors involving his wife, resolved to revenge his wrongs—at about 2 o'clock this afternoon, proceeding from his residence near the President's house, to the south-east corner of Lafayette square, in the same neighborhood, where Mr. Key was engaged in conversation with Mr. Butterworth, he charged Mr. Key with having dishonored him and destroyed his domestic peace, and shot him with a revolver. One of the balls entered the left side of the body and passed through to the corresponding point on the opposite side lodging under the skin. Another shot took effect in the right thigh near the main artery. Mr. Key fell, imploring Mr. Sickles not to kill him. The third shot was in the right side glancing from the body inflicting only a bruise. Death ensued in a few minutes. The body was taken into the National Club House, where a jury of inquest was held, who, after an examination into the circumstances of some hours length, returned a verdict merely stating that the death of Mr. Key was from the effect of pistol shots, as above stated, fired by Mr. Sickles. The premises of the Club House were crowded with people anxiously inquiring into all the circumstances of the event.

After Mr. Sickles had killed Mr. Key, he repaired to the residence of Attorney General Black, where he was advised to deliver himself into the hands of the officers, who subsequently conveyed him to jail, to which he was committed for further examination to-morrow.

The facts which led to the tragedy will then probably judicially transpire. The inquisition of the Coroner was merely with reference to the cause which produced death.

Application will be made by Mr. Sickles for a writ of habeas corpus with a view to procure his release on bail to await his trial. His wife exonerates him from all blame, and he has the general sympathy of the community.

In the Circuit Court, Mr. Carlisle announced the death of Mr. Key, the late District Attorney for the District of Columbia. While alluding to the deceased as a courteous, frank, open-hearted gentleman, he forebore to speak of the cause which led to his death, as that was a subject for judicial investigation.

The Court paid a similar compliment to the deceased, and adjourned to Thursday.

The Montreal Herald contains an account of a grand snow shoe walking match of five miles, for the champion medal of the Montreal Snow Shoe Club, won by Mculloch in 60 minutes.

News and Other Paragraphs.

The Mayor of Cincinnati has had a census of the drinking saloons taken, showing a total of 1,688.

The Syracuse N. Y. Standard says that the small pox is prevailing in nearly all the towns of Onondaga county.

The aspect of matters at Washington of late, render the call of an extra session of Congress more and more probable.

Dan Rice, the clown, now at Niblo's Theatre, gets a salary of \$600 per week and with his family lives in style at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

Chief Justice Tancy abstains from all society. Even Lord Napier was recently denied an interview with him on account of age and infirmities.

The Ottawa Clarion announces the discovery, at the mouth of Grand River, of an abundance of sand suitable for the manufacture of glass.

Vice President Breckenridge has sold his house for about twenty thousand dollars, having abandoned the idea of housekeeping in Washington.

The La Fayette Courier tells of a dissipated woman in that city, who drank thirty-two glasses of lager beer at a low saloon, on last Sunday.

Riotous demonstrations are of almost daily occurrence in Quebec. The lower class of the population are in great distress, for the want of food and employment.

Vice President Breckenridge is said to protest that he does not aspire to the Charleston nomination, but will be a candidate for Crittenden's seat in the Senate.

A German composer, Mr. Stoepel, has made an Opera out of Longfellow's "Hiawatha," which is being performed with success at the New York Academy of Music.

The population of California, according to the best estimate amounts to 600,000. When the next apportionment comes to be made, the State will have six members of Congress.

A bill to prevent the emancipation of Slaves in North Carolina has been rejected by the House of Representatives of that State. The project was very warmly debated.

Mr. Stowe's story, the "Minister's Wife," now in course of publication in the Atlantic Monthly, is reprinted in monthly parts in London, as fast as it appears.

It is stated that Bonner is about to commence the republication of his *Ledger* in London, and that an agent is there now making the necessary arrangements.

It is stated that Col. Richard, of Dubuque, has been tendered the appointment of Secretary of Kansas. The *Herald* says he will leave for Washington the present week.

The opposition State Convention in Kentucky is to be held on the 22d inst., and a like Convention in Tennessee on the 20th of March. The example of Virginia excites a noble emulation in each of those States.

The German Institute of Cincinnati has resolved to erect a monument to Gov. Chase, "in token of their appreciation of his character as a citizen, and his wisdom and virtue as a public officer."

There is a report of Piccolomini's speech in response to the serenaders in front of the Troy House, as follows: "Shentlemen—I am veer mooch obliged for dis compliment. I am veer poore speak English, unt I feels sleepy." That will do.

A bright boy of nine years was delivered in Lancashire Ill., a few days since, for the purpose of attending school, having been forwarded by Adams' express from Houston, Texas. The "freight" had been four weeks on the road.

A lady in St. Paul, Minnesota, who had become unsettled in her mind from anxiety in matters of religion, attempted self-destruction by drinking boiling water from a tea-kettle. Medical aid was secured, and, although severely injured, she was at last accounts recovering.

It has been often predicted that the heavy glass skylights' Hall in Washington were not sufficiently secure. Early on Tuesday morning, from some unknown cause, a heavy pane fell from the skylight upon the desk and chair of Mr. Nichols of Ohio, who had a moment before left his seat.

NOTICE.—We have been informed that several unprincipled parties have, for some time past, been refilling our empty bottles with a spurious article, and retailing it to their customers as the genuine Hostetter Bitters. All such engaged, should be shunned by all that value their health, for it is evident that those who would prostitute themselves to one base action, would not hesitate in others. We would also earnestly caution you to examine well the bottle before purchasing, as in different parts of the Union several worthless preparations are gotten up with the evident design of being palmed off as our Bitters, having a similar bottle and label, and the directions, etc., taken off verbatim, save the omission of Dr. J. Hostetter's name.

Hostetter & Smith, Pittsburg, Pa. Sold by Druggists and dealers generally.

Special Message of the President.

Washington, Feb. 18.—The President to-day transmitted a message to Congress as follows:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

The brief period which remains of your present session, and the great urgency and importance of legislative action before its termination, for the protection of American citizens and their property whilst in transit across the Isthmus between our Atlantic and Pacific possessions, render it my duty to recall this subject to your notice. I have heretofore presented it in my annual message of December 1857 and 1858, to which I beg leave to refer. In the latter I stated that the Executive government of this country in its intercourse with foreign nations, is limited to the employment of diplomacy alone. When this fails it can proceed no further. It cannot legitimately resort to force without the direct authority to enter the territories of Nicaragua even to prevent the destruction of the Isthmus and protect the lives and property of our own citizens on their passages. It is true that on sudden emergencies of this character the President would direct any armed force in the vicinity to march to their relief, but in doing this he would act upon his own responsibility under these circumstances.

I earnestly recommend to Congress the passage of an act authorizing the President, under such instructions as they may deem proper, to employ the land and naval forces of the United States in preventing the transit from being obstructed or closed by lawless violence, and in protecting the lives and property of American citizens traveling through upon it—requiring at the same time that these forces shall be withdrawn the moment the danger shall have passed away. Without such a provision, our citizens will be constantly exposed to interference in their progress by lawless violence. A similar necessity exists for the passage of such an act for the protection of the Panama and Tehuantepec routes.

Another subject, equally important, demands the attention of the Senate, at this or the next session of Congress. The Republics south of the United States on this continent, have unfortunately been in a state of revolution and civil war ever since they achieved their independence. As one or another party has prevailed and obtained possession of their ports open to foreign commerce, they have seized the congested American vessels and their cargoes in an arbitrary and lawless manner, and exacted from American citizens, forced loans and other violent proceedings, to enable them to carry on hostilities.

The executive government of Great Britain, France, and other countries, possessing the war-making power, can promptly employ the necessary means to enforce immediate redress for similar outrages upon their subjects. Not so the executive government of the United States. If the President orders a vessel-of-war to any of those ports to demand prompt redress for outrages committed, the offending parties are well aware that the commander could do no more than remonstrate. He can resort to no hostile act. The question must then be referred to diplomacy, and, in many cases, adequate redress can never be obtained. Thus, American citizens are deprived of the same protection under the flag of their own country which the subjects of other nations enjoy. The remedy for this state of things can only be supplied by Congress, since the constitution has confided to that body alone the power to make war. Without the authority of Congress, the President cannot lawfully direct any force, however near it may be to the scene of difficulty, or enter the territory of Mexico, or Nicaragua, or New Granada, for the purpose of defending the persons and property of American citizens. Even though they may be voluntarily assailed, whilst passing in peaceful transit over the Tehuantepec, Nicaragua, or Panama routes, he cannot, without transcending his constitutional power, direct a gun to be fired into a port or landing a seaman or mariner, to protect the lives of our countrymen on shore, or to obtain redress for a recent outrage upon their property.

The banditti which infest our neighboring republic of Mexico, always claiming to belong to one or other hostile parties, might make a sudden descent upon Vera Cruz or the Tehuantepec route, and he would have no power to employ a force on ship-board in the vicinity for their relief—neither to prevent the plunder of our merchants, nor the destruction of the transit. In reference to countries where the lawful authorities are strong enough to enforce laws, the difficulties here indicated can seldom occur; but where this is not the case, and the local authorities do not possess the will to protect our citizens within their limits, recent experience has shown that the Executive should itself be authorized to render this protection. Such a grant of authority thus limited in its extent, could in no just sense be regarded as a transfer of the war-making power to the Executive, but only as an appropriate exercise of that power by the body to whom it exclusively belongs. The riot in Panama in 1856, in which a great number of our citizens lost their lives, furnishes a pointed illustration of the necessity which may arise for the exercise of authority. I therefore earnestly recommend to Congress, on whom the responsibility exclusively rests, to pass a law before their adjournment, conferring on the President the power to protect the lives and property of American citizens in the cases which I have indicated, under such restrictions and conditions as they may deem advisable. The knowledge that such a law exists, would of itself go far to prevent the outrages which it is intended to redress, and render the employment of force unnecessary. Without this, the President of the United States may be placed in painful situations before the meeting of the next Congress. In the present disturbed condition of Mexico, and one or more of the other Republics South of us no person can foresee what occurrences may take place before that period. In case of emergency, our citizens, seeing

that they do not enjoy the same protection with the subjects of European government, will have just cause to complain.

On the other hand, should the Executive interpose, and especially should the result prove disastrous and valuable lives be lost, he might subject himself to severe censure for having assumed a power not confided to him by the constitution. It is to guard against such a contingency that I now appeal to Congress to pass a measure which I deem necessary and expedient for the interests and honor of our country, I leave the whole subject to their wisdom and discretion. Signed

JAMES BUCHANAN.

Dated Washington, Feb. 18th, 1859.

The Registry Law.

The registry law is designed expressly to prevent illegal voting, and to secure to every legal voter the free exercise of his political rights. It offers so many facilities to every legal voter to register his name, that it will impose no burden or expense upon any one who thinks the privilege of voting worth the trouble of writing his name or requesting some one else to do it for him. The expense of the registry books, and of the Board of Registration, will not average at the very highest, more than ten cents to each voter, or a cent and a half for each inhabitant in the State. Is there, then, an honest man in Michigan who is not willing to pay ten cents to preserve the purity of the ballot boxes? One of the Locooco or negro Democrats who addressed the Dred Scott Convention day before yesterday, asserted that the Republicans polled a thousand illegal votes, one polled by the Democrats. If he told what he believed to be the truth, why does he and his party oppose a law so admirably calculated to put an end to these Republican frauds as the registry act just passed? But its opponents believe no such thing. They all look upon it as a fatal blow to the Democratic party. Even the demagogue to whom we have referred, denounced it as an assault upon the "Democratic" party, almost in the same breath in which he asserted that all the illegal votes, or nearly all, were polled by Republicans. This is the consistency of their views. They profess to believe it fatal to Republicanism, and yet are more bitter against it than they would be a law—if such a thing were possible—that should do full justice to all delinquent Locoocos. The truth is, and they know it, that the registry law will cut off an immense number of fraudulent Locooco votes—the sort of material upon which the leaders mainly rely for their success. This is the foundation of all their bitterness towards it.

They hope, too, undoubtedly, to array some prejudice against it, on the ground of its expense. But, however many party demagogues may assail it on that ground, they mistake the people of Michigan if they imagine they can make them believe that a tax of ten cents is a burden. We believe the Republicans of the State would most cheerfully pay the whole cost of registration for the general good it will accomplish. But Republicans are not the only men who are in favor of it. A large number of the better class